

REMARKS

As set forth at page 2 of the 2/22/2007 Final Office Action, Claims 1-10, 12-14, 17, 20, 22 and 24 are rejected under Section 112(1) on the basis that the specification as originally filed does not provide support for "forming a boundary layer of a heated liquid on the bottom surface of the workpiece." Reconsideration and withdrawal of this Section 112(1) rejection is requested, to place the Application into better condition for further prosecution or appeal.

The claim language "forming a boundary layer of a heated liquid on the bottom surface of the workpiece" is in independent claim 1. Claims 2-10, 12-14, 17, 20, 22 and 24 are all dependent claims depending from claim 1, and are consequently rejected for this reason. None of these dependent claims is separately rejected under Section 112(1).

Applicant submits that "forming a boundary layer of a heated liquid on the bottom surface of the workpiece" is well supported in the Application as filed, at the following locations.

Original Claim 1 reads:

- "1. A method for cleaning a flat media workpiece comprising the steps of:

forming a boundary layer of a heated liquid on the workpiece;

providing ozone into the environment around the workpiece; and

directing a jet liquid through the boundary layer to physically dislodge a contaminant on the workpiece."

Original Claim 23 reads:

"23. The method of claim 1 where the workpiece has a top surface and a bottom surface, and where the jet is directed from below against the bottom surface."

Hence, original claim 1 describes a flat workpiece, forming the boundary layer on the workpiece, and directing a jet through the boundary layer. Original claim 23 describes the workpiece as having a top surface and a bottom surface, and with the jet directed against the bottom surface. Accordingly, in the method of original claim 23, the boundary layer is necessarily formed on the bottom surface (since in original claims 1 and 23 the jet is necessarily directed through the boundary layer, and the jet is directed at the bottom surface).

The original specification also supports claiming "forming a boundary layer of a heated liquid on the bottom surface of the workpiece."

Paragraph 0107 specifies that the jet penetrates through the boundary layer:

"[0107] Referring to Fig. 7, another alternative system 120 is similar to the system 54 shown in Fig. 4, except the system 120 does not use the spray nozzles 40. Rather one or more jet nozzles 56 are used to form a high pressure jet of liquid. The liquid 58 formed into the high pressure jet 62 penetrates through the boundary layer 73 of liquid on the workpiece surface...." (emphasis added).

Paragraph 0019 states that:

"[0019] "...The nozzle may be above or below, or to one side of the workpiece so that the jet travels vertically up or down, or horizontally. Ozone is supplied into the chamber and diffuses

through the boundary layer, to remove contaminants." (emphasis added).

Again, since the jet is directed through the boundary layer, this paragraph supports forming the boundary layer on the top or the bottom surface.

Paragraph 0038 states that:

"[0038] One or more nozzles 40 are disposed within the process chamber 15 to direct a spray mixture of ozone and liquid onto the surfaces of the workpiece 20. The nozzles 40 preferably direct a spray of liquid to the underside of the workpiece 20...." (emphasis added).

Since the spray forms the boundary layer, this paragraph supports forming the boundary layer on the bottom surface.

Withdrawal of the Section 112(1) rejections is requested.

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